

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Church-State Impasse

[REDACTED] Archbishop Glemp yesterday made his strongest public statement to date supporting the release of Lech Walesa and other internees and the resumption of a national dialogue. The Primate celebrated Mass in a working-class district of Warsaw that is a Solidarity stronghold and then addressed a crowd of 20,000, which he called the largest audience to congregate since the imposition of martial law. Meanwhile, a key negotiator in Church-state talks recently told [REDACTED] that the regime has not responded to the Polish bishops' communique two weeks ago that had urged a resumption of the government's dialogue with Solidarity. He stressed that the Church had done all it could as a mediator. [REDACTED]

Comment: Glemp's remarks--even though not combative--reflect his own growing frustration at the current stalemate, as well as the need to respond to public unhappiness at his seemingly ambiguous position on these issues. For example, his sermons in the two preceding weeks had clearly disappointed congregations apparently expecting a more forthright criticism of martial law repression. The Church hierarchy views itself as only a facilitator of dialogue, and seems uncomfortable under pressure from the Polish populace and Western countries which tend to consider the Church a principal in the negotiations.

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